



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT

Regulatory Branch
333 Market Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-2197

PUBLIC NOTICE

Project: Arid West Interim Supplement

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DATE: December 18, 2006

RESPONSE REQUIRED BY: January 22, 2007

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District, announces the publication and implementation of the Arid West Interim Regional Supplement (Supplement) to the 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual (1987 Manual). The Supplement was developed by wetland delineation experts from state and Federal agencies and academia with experience within the arid western United States. It has been peer reviewed by an independent panel of western scientists and practitioners. This interim document will be tested for one year prior to finalization; this one year period will begin effective 30 days from the date of this public notice. The Supplement will be field tested by interagency teams of state and Federal scientists to assess its clarity and ease of use, and to determine whether its use will result in any spatial changes in wetland delineation for Clean Water Act Section 404 purposes. The Supplement, including data forms, and field evaluation questionnaire, as well as the peer review report and response, environmental assessment and copies of public comments are available on the Regulatory Website: http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwo/reg/reg_supp.htm

We are planning to hold orientation sessions near the start of the growing season to help interested parties become more familiar with the Supplement. Persons interested in attending these sessions should contact the San Francisco District within 30 days of this notice. Specific dates and locations

will be determined based on this input, and interested parties will be notified.

Effective 30 days from the date of this public notice, the Supplement data forms and indicators must be used for any data collection for wetland delineations. Field data collected for wetland delineations using the 1987 Manual prior to the effective date of this notice, but not yet submitted to this District for review and formal approval will be grandfathered. Documentation must be submitted to this District which clearly shows the field data was collected prior to 30 days from the date of this notice in order to qualify for this grandfather provision. Once this documentation has been reviewed and approved by this District under the 1987 Manual, a written jurisdictional determination will be provided.

While we are confident the Supplement will improve the accuracy of wetland delineation in Arid West, anyone performing a wetland delineation during this interim period using the Supplement who believes it has resulted in a significantly different boundary line than the 1987 Manual may also complete the delineation using the 1987 Manual and submit both delineations. Enough points to adequately describe the representative plant communities, soils, and hydrology of the site(s) and to clearly document the difference in boundaries between the two methods must be included. Data recorded on both the existing 1992 data forms and the new Supplement data forms,

maps indicating the location of the field site and data collection points (upland and wetland), and a completed field evaluation questionnaire for each delineation must be submitted as part of the jurisdictional determination request to this District Office. The District will make the final determination based on analysis of all the submitted information. This information will also be used in evaluation and potential modification of the Supplement.